

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 104461
ORIGIN ARA-04

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DRAFTED BY: ARA/CCA-DEHENDERSON

APPROVED BY: ARA/CCA-WSSMITH

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USINT HAVANA

INFO AMCONSUL BELIZE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 104461

FOLLOWING REPEAT BELIZE 359 ACTION SECSTATE DATED APRIL 14, 1978.

QUOTE: C O N F I D E N T I A L BELIZE 359

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PINS, BH, CU

SUBJECT: CUBAN VISITOR TO BELIZE?

1. DURING MY COURTESY CALL, GOVERNOR MCENTEE BROUGHT UP SUBJECT OF CUBAN ACTIVITIES IN BELIZE. GOVERNOR SAID HE HAD ABSOLUTELY ACCURATE EVIDENCE THAT SENIOR MEMBER CUBAN COMMUNIST PARTY HAD BEEN IN BELIZE AND SAID HE WOULD BE PLEASED PASS IT TO ME WITH UNDERSTANDING THERE WOULD BE NO RPT NO ATTRIBUTION TO HIM. ESSENTIAL, THEREFORE, HE BE PROTECTED.

2. MCENTEE THEN PROCEEDED TELL ME THE FOLLOWING: DURING RECENT CONFERENCE IN BELIZE, ONE RAFAEL GONZALES, MEMBER CENTRAL COMMITTEE, CUBAN CP HAD BEEN DELEGATE. WHILE HERE, HE SPENT ABOUT ONE DAY TRAVELLING WITH ATT'Y GENERAL ASSAD SHOMAN, WHO CONSIDERED "COMMUNIST" BY OPPOSITION UDP AND "LEFTIST" BY SOME OTHERS, INCLUDING MCENTEE.

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DURING AIR TRAVELS, THE TWO VISITED BENQUE VIEJO WHERE ACFT BELIEVED ORIGINATED IN GAUTAMALA ARRIVED AND CONSULTATIONS TOOK PLACE BRIEFLY ON AIRSTRIP. GONZALES AND SHOMAN THEN VISITED PUNTA GORDA AND TRAVELLED BY POV FOR ONE OR TWO HOURS IN THAT AREA.

3. GOVERNOR TOLD ME OPPOSITION HAD THIS INFORMATION AND
WOULD LIKELY PUBLISH IT; UNLESS AND UNTIL THIS HAPPENS,
MCENTEE STRESSED SENSITIVITY OF MATTER. HE ASKED ME FOR MY
THOUGHTS; I SAID I COULD NOT COMMENT USEFULLY EXCEPT THAT
OPENNESS OF TRAVEL AND PERSONALITY OF ESCORT MADE IT APPEAR
TO ME THIS MIGHT HAVE BEEN LESS THAN IT APPEARED.

4. WOULD APPRECIATE ANY IDENTIFYING DATA AND BIO ON GONZALES
FOR TRANSMITTAL TO GOVERNOR.

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Message Attributes

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